

TOWN OF PEACHAM
SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
Town Hall Meeting Room
Wednesday July 15, 2015 6:30PM

Present:

Selectboard: Annette Lorraine, Nate Giroux, and David Jacobs

Clerk to the Selectboard: Melissa Laurita Kohl

Public: Road Foreman Jeremy Withers, Mike Bruton, Bill Cody, Dick Hovey, Rick Scholes, Marty Cavanaugh, Jock Gill, Cheryl Stevenson, Dale Roy

The meeting was called to order by Chair of the Board Nate Giroux at 6:37PM.

1) Additions

- a) Bill Cody
- b) Roller Barn/ Dick Hovey
- c) PAMFest/ Frank Miller Letter

2) Review and Approve Minutes of 7/1/15

- a) Nate moves to approve the minutes of 7/1/15 as ammended. David seconds. So moved.

3) Roller Barn/ Dick Hovey

- a) Dick presented and read a document to the Selectboard named "Possible Snow Roller Barn Considerations" including: security and openings; additional repair work; roller placement; additional roller; cleanup; and special event openings.
- b) Nate said that when Ray Young's schedule gets freed up he is going to replace the header for the doors and the road crew will grade the ground in front of the doors.
- c) Annette met with a historic preservation expert at the Roller Barn. She presented him with Nate's idea about a door on the side with a dirt ramp. He did not think it would ruin the historic integrity of the barn and would be the most practical. He said a black metal railing would be the least obtrusive as it would look more historic.
- d) Annette thinks it would be good to keep the barn doors locked so no one could remove a roller. The side door might be left open for visiting hours.
- e) Dick said that if the side door was left open, he would remove smaller items and would bring them back for view on special events.
- f) Dick said the rollers would be hard to remove. A nearby place has a rather large roller. People are starting to ask Dick if they can bring the rollers to the barn now. Dick said you have to draw the line somewhere but he would like to add a small roller, so the complete range would be in the barn.
- g) Annette said that Dick's opening on July 4th was just amazing. She received a lot of positive feedback.

4) Solar Days at the Transfer Station

- a) Town Energy Coordinator said that in order to share more information with Town residents it has been suggested to have different solar companies come in and have solar days at the transfer station so people can kick tires and ask questions and get numbers. The great advantage of the

transfer station is that everybody goes there. Jock would like to see a broader range of residents be able to ask questions. Robert, the Transfer Station Attendant, said that he was fine with it.

- b) Jock has three solar companies in mind, and there might be more.
- c) **David moves to allow solar days at the transfer stations. Annette seconds. So moved.**
- d) Nate said that he would not say no to this because it is a good cause, but with any commerce and public he thinks it opens the doors for other requests like this.
- e) Jock said that there won't be any contracts or transactions. It would just be educational. People might ask for a site visit or take business cards.
- f) Annette told Jock that we just hired Paul MunKittrick as the new Transfer Station Attendant.
- g) Jock said that the school board was excited about having a solar array on their land.

5) Bill Cody

- a) Bill is here at the Selectboard's request because there are some issues with Green Mountain Power (GMP) getting power to his lot. He shared paperwork with the Selectboard, including a more current map (but has the same lines as what they saw before).
- b) Discussion ensued and include the following points in addition to others:
- c) Bill talked about the other options for the line and why they would not work, according to GMP.
- d) Annette asked to make a comment as a member of the public. She said that when Rick called GMP, they said that the choice of route was up to Bill Cody. She said that Bill had more than one choice and this is the one he chose to go with it.
- e) Bill said that he would be fine going in any direction if the price was the same.
- f) Annette said that she was concerned by the large swath of trees to be removed. She said that the residents of the road said that when they were reclassified from class 4 to class 3 they did not want to widen the road or change the nature of the road by cutting the canopy back.
- g) Rick said that Bill is proposing to put a power line right in front of their house (30 feet) - it will decrease the value of our property by at least \$28,000. Years ago, we paid to bury our electric lines.
- h) Rick said that it's going to be a dead end line, unused. There will at least be 20 large trees in the right of way that will be removed. Rick said that he told GMP that they cannot cut his trees.
- i) Annette said that GMP cuts the trees beneath the lines. Annette pointed out that you may end up cutting all of the trees 950 feet along the road to be able to get power to the house site.
- j) Bill said he is not sure how he will get power to the house site. It would depend on price.
- k) Annette said that she doesn't understand why he is moving forward with this first step if he has not thought through the other part of the process to get power to the building site.
- l) Nate said that regardless to what it's going to do with aesthetics if GMP said this is the most viable option and Jeremy said that it does not interfere with anything...

- m) Jeremy said that he is concerned that if we start saying there are exceptions to allowing people to put power poles in the road right of way, that no one is ever going to let power get to anyone's lot.
 - n) Tom asked why we can't go under ground. Nate said that going underground presents a safety issue electrical hazard. Annette said that Tim McKay wants to come to the Selectboard to have the Selectboard revisit this because he thinks power lines can be deep enough and encased in concrete so they won't be a hazard to the road crew. She doesn't think that it pertains in this issue because it is bedrock.
 - o) Jock said that one of the conditions or sticking issues is the right of way turning into brambles. Can there be some agreement to maintain the road right of way?
 - p) Dave asked if we will see it.
 - q) Rick said that the trees will be cut down right across the street.
 - r) Dave said he likes Jock's idea of mitigating in some way. It's a lot to ask.
 - s) Nate said that anywhere else he would look at 18 feet in the road right of way and say okay. He understands the principal of the issue.
 - t) Tom said that they just extended power on Keiser Pond Road and they only took a few trees down by bouncing back and forth across the road.
 - u) Annette said that when the Selectboard gets a proposal from the Cody's or whoever buys the land to extend power in the right of way 950 feet to bring power to the house site, a lot of testimony at the hearings ...
 - v) **Nate moves to sign the petition from GMP for Bill Cody's power to his property. David seconds. Annette abstains. So moved.**
- 6) Policy Review for Accounting, Auditing and Financial Reporting
- a) Annette sent a draft with changes to Tom. Tom's only feedback was a one word change.
 - b) The Selectboard and Tom wordsmithed the document.
 - c) **Annette moved to approve the Accounting, Auditing, and Financial Reporting Policy as amended. Nate seconds. So moved.**
 - d) Mike wanted to thank Tom for being willing to find the people who were unreachable. Tom said we only are owed \$80,000 in taxes as opposed to 180,000 on January 1st and are expecting about \$32,000.
- 7) Personnel Policies
- a) Annette thinks that the Selectboard should think about changing the policy so that spouses can be included in medical insurance plans. It increases the policy cost by approximately \$620 a month for 5 months in 2015. Annette said that looking at the budget, the Town is way under on payroll because the road crew was short handed. Tom said that the Town is doing incredibly well on the budget. Tom said that the Town hasn't even borrowed money yet because so many of the delinquent taxes came in.
 - b) The personnel policy does not state what the Selectboard does or does not cover. It is not specific so the personnel policy does not have to be changed.
 - c) **Annette moves to change our insurance plan for our employees to offer both individual and spousal coverage for our employees. David seconds. So moved.**
 - d) Tom will take care of the paperwork.

8) Town Clerk Update

- a) Life's really good. The Town has about \$35,000 left in general fund. He requested to transfer \$12,000 from retreatment into general fund because it was spent out of the general fund. The Selectboard said yes, that was decided before.
- b) Tom wanted to know if he could use the leftover roller barn money to pay for work for the barn. Annette said that you can zero out the roller barn account and then pay out of capital building funds.

9) Highway Department Update

- a) Legal Trail question concerning Taylor Farm Road. Dale Roy does not want to be breaking the law or trespassing through Marty's property. He said honestly he probably hasn't been down that road in 30 years.
 - i) Marty said that the highest use of it right now is her jogging and some people driving.
 - ii) Nate said that technically on legal trails the Town has discontinued their upkeep. Annette said that the Town doesn't even have to upkeep their culverts. Some towns say that in order to protect privacy you could put a gate on the trail.
 - iii) Driving on legal roads, including legal trails, is legal. ATV use is definitely illegal.
 - iv) Nate said that if it comes to a point when it is a problem/ nuisance Marty should let the Selectboard know. If it turns out that it's better for the Selectboard to turn the legal trail into a walking path as it continues to decay they can do that. It is still a town right of way. The Town is advised by VT Ctities and towns to not give up its legal right of ways just in case the Town ever does need to upgrade it to a public road or because recreation is such an important piece of quality of life the Selectboard can turn it into an advertised trail (subject to gates and bars).
 - v) Marty said that it was an issue of a lot of contention 10 years ago.
 - vi) Nate suggested that he come up and walk it and see what it is and talk about it more. Nate suggested after August.
- b) Jeremy said that the speed sign is up. Nate has heard some good feedback.
- c) Jeremy met with Bill Ricker last week. He is still low bid even with upgrading the stone. Possibly the first or second week of August for paving. Bill Ricker might do Academy Hill at the end of July. The road will probably be closed for a week. Jeremy will let Melissa know the dates as soon as he hears back from Bill so that Melissa can post notices about the road closure.
- d) Staff is back to work this week.
- e) The road crew is flushing a lot of culverts. They got a new nozzle for flushing culverts. It is excellent. Just did one below Jock's place and can almost guarantee that it hasn't seen water going through it for four or five years.
- f) MSDS sheets. If you have the liquids in your possession you have to have the MSDS sheets. If OSHA stops and you cannot produce these sheets, there is a large fine. Jeremy said that when the road crew purchases, they request MSDS sheets from the company.
- g) 1044 East Peacham Road - Town Garage address.
- h) Annette asked about the water situation at the town garage. The spring is currently running. David wants to come up and have a look at that spring.

- i) Jeremy said that at the last training he was at, one of the state employees said is that the Town sand pile is leaching out into the brook behind that building. He said the road crew will have to put it in a building or cover it with a tarp so that it does not run off into the brook. The sand could also be relocated to another site.

10)PAMFest/ Letter from Frank Miller

- a) **Nate moves to approve the use of town facilities as per Frank Miller's letter for PAMfest. David seconds. So moved.**

11)Review and approve bills

- a) The Selectboard reviewed and approved bills.

12)Review correspondence

- a) The Selectboard reviewed and approved correspondence.

Annette moves to adjourn at 9:08pm. Nate seconds. So moved.